

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, September 15, 2016

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, September 15, at 5:31 p.m. by Joe Hrdlicka.

Commission	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Aaron Sewell	Joe Hrdlicka
Present	X	Left at 6:00pm	X	X	X

Staff	Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Interim Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Dave Sadler <i>Parks & Recreation Landscape Architect</i>
Present	X	X	X	X

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Swalwell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

Landon Stull, 3530 Commerce Drive, West Des Moines

Stull shared a proposal for a gaga ball pit, which is a variant of dodge ball played in a pit of sand or grass. He added that it is an extremely fun game for everyone. Stull suggested that Scenic Valley Park could be a good location and that he would be willing to raise funds, provide supplies and labor. Hrdlicka asked what school he is enrolled at. Stull responded that he is in 3rd grade at Jordan Creek Elementary.

Schebel added that she and her family have played that game as well and they really enjoy it. Sewell shared that he learned about gaga ball this summer when visiting Wesley Woods. Swalwell asked if there is room at Scenic Valley. Ortgies responded that staff could certainly take a look at several locations and that the Facilities Committee could meet and bring a recommendation back at the next meeting. Schebel suggested that with renovations occurring at Fairmeadows that could be a potential location as well. The Board and staff discussed potential timelines for construction as well as seating and signage for how to play. Hrdlicka asked if Stull had an estimate of much it would cost to construct. Stull responded that it could be as low as \$500 and that they considered asking local lumber companies for donated materials. Sadler added that a minor modification to the park site plan may need to be submitted to Development Services for approval.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2016 Meeting

Sewell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

Swalwell shared that he spoke with Kristi Knous & Gene Meyer regarding fundraising. He determined that the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation may be willing to assist in a fundraising effort through their donors. Swalwell added that Meyer questioned the impact on property taxes and felt that a parks and library referendum should be held at the same time. Hrdlicka added that Des Moines' plans with the local option sales tax are an additional complication. Ortgies stated that she will check with the Library Director on their current plans.

New Business:

On Item 5A. Discussion – FY 17-18 Parks Capital Improvement Program

Ortgies noted that it is time to begin discussions about CIP funding for FY 17-18.

Hrdlicka asked about development in Woodland Hills and Valley View. The Board recommended that the tennis court project in Valley View Park be included in FY 16-17 with additional development in Woodland Hills Park moved to FY 17-18. Ortgies introduced some additional potential projects identified by staff that included updating the shelter in Kiwanis Park, repairs to the trail at Raccoon River Park where the water comes over during flood events, a trail connection between the levee trail and the Valley Junction area, consulting for a potential trail connection with the City of Windsor Heights, trail construction in Woodland Hills Greenway which is being partially funded through parkland dedication, and canoe and kayak access and lockers at Blue Heron Lake. Ortgies shared that the Facilities Committee will meet in a couple of weeks to discuss further and a recommendation will be brought to the Board for approval in November.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Landscape Architect

Sadler shared that fall is a very busy construction season. He shared that work is underway on Holiday Park Youth Baseball Renovations, Phase 4A – Commons Area, and this phase will really begin to change the visual aesthetics of the park. Sadler shared that in Holiday Park at the Girls Softball Fields there are ADA and drainage improvements occurring, and installation of new bleachers will occur in the spring. In Woodland Hills Park construction is underway for a shelter, restroom, playgrounds, parking lot, trails and additional water quality components. Sadler shared that the Mintzer family has donated funds for a small shelter near the boat ramp at Raccoon River Park which is planned to be constructed this fall. He added that water lines will be installed this fall for the expansion of the community gardens in Jordan Creek Park. Sadler shared that trail ramp repairs are ongoing.

On Item 6B. Superintendent of Recreation

Hansen shared that staff is busy with configurations for the new PerfectMind software. He shared that Illumifest is September 24. Hansen participated in the water trails outing which was very beneficial. He stated that Saturday, June 3, 2017, is National Trails Day and there will be an opening event for the permanent Art on the Trail exhibit. Hansen will be out of the office at the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association conference next week.

On Item 6C. Interim Director of Parks and Recreation

Ortgies shared that staff reviewed the water trails plan through West Des Moines and provided some comments back to the MPO. One item of concern was the naming of the section in West Des Moines and choosing a name that would not cause confusion with the names of nearby parks. Ortgies stated staff will be working with a consultant planning streetscape enhancements for the project that will result in Veterans Parkway extending west to where Grand Prairie Parkway will cross the river. Ortgies shared that the Iowa Wild and Wells Fargo are donating the equipment for a portable, non-refrigerated ice rink to be placed in Raccoon River Park. She added that City staff will be making and maintaining the ice once the weather is cold enough. Ortgies will look at potential dates that the Board and Commission Chairs from the Community Enrichment cluster could meet for a luncheon. Ortgies noted that Board members may receive an email from National Recreation and Parks Association. The City now has an agency membership and Board members are allowed to create accounts.

On Item 7. Other Matters

No items

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 8A. City Council Communications

August 22, 2016: Resolution – Approval of West Des Moines Deer Management Zone – 4105 & 4109 Quail Park Drive

September 6, 2016: Motion – Approval of Waiver of Alcohol Provisions – Thrive Church Food Truck 5K – Valley View Park, September 24, 2016

Executive Session:

On Item 9A. Potential Acquisition/Disposition of Real Estate (Iowa Code Chapter 21.5)

Chair Hrdlicka stated that an Executive Session is proposed on Potential Acquisition/Disposition of Real Estate in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.5.

Schebel moved to hold an Executive Session. Sewell seconded.

Roll Call - Schebel, Ridgway, Sewell, Hrdlicka: Aye

Entered Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. with the following persons present in the Raccoon River Conference Room of City Hall: Interim Director of Parks & Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members: Schebel, Ridgway, Hrdlicka, Sewell.

Schebel moved to adjourn Executive Session. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried. Executive Session was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Aaron Sewell
Advisory Board Secretary